Mr. A. Govinda Menon.

I have nothing to add to what has been said by the previous speakers, except that I agree with Mr. Parameswaran Pillai in regard to the provision for the introduction of free compulsory education, at least within the limits of municipalities. What other suggestion I have to make may be better made at the further stages of the Bill.

Mr. Subba Aiyar in reply said as follows :—

"I am glad to acknowledge the fact that the principle of the Bill has met with the approval of the non-official members of the Council. There are some points suggested both by Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Parameswaran Pillai. Mr. Parameswaran Pillai would like to introduce the question of compulsory education also in the Bill. With regard to that, I have to observe that the question of compulsory education is a general and, is at the same time, a difficult one. It was only recently that the Council had to reject the motion for leave to introduce a Bill regarding compulsory education. With reference to that Bill, I had to observe that so far as Travancore was concerned the difficulty was for the Government to provide schools and school masters for pupils who wished to be admitted into schools. I therefore think that the question of compulsory education may be left out of account for the present.

With regard to the observation of Mr. Velu Pillai regarding the exemption of Government buildings from taxation, I may say that there is nothing unreasonable in it. I may say that in England all Government buildings are exempted by statute from local taxation. Even with regard to British India, it was so in Bombay till recently and it existed in other places as well. Further, Government buildings have been exempted in the existing Regulation and most, if not all, of the Committees had nothing to say about it in the suggestions sent up by them.

With regard to the question of rates and taxes, raised by Mr. Velu Pillai, I may say that that there is no necessity for any distinction being made, as the Committees are at liberty to adopt any one of the ways mentioned in the chapter on taxation. Anyhow, the suggestions of my friends may be considered at the further stages of the Bill.

Mr. Subba Aiyar's motion was carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyer then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Mahadeva Aiyar, Rengaswamy Aiyangar, Parameswaren Pillai, Velu Pillai, Paul Daniel and the Mover, to report within six months.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

Carried.

THE PRESS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved for permission to introduce the Press Regulation Amendment Bill, by suspending the operation of Rule 33 of the Council Rules, as the translation of the Bill had not been published.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar accordingly introduced the Bill and stated that, as the Bill was a very small one, there was no necessity for referring the same to a Select Committee. He therefore moved that the operation of the ordinary Rules of business be suspended, so that the Bill might go through all the stages except the final reading.

Seconded by Mr. Rengaswami Aiyangar.

Carried.

The Bill having been approved by the Council, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the same be read again on a future day of which notice should be given.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar next moved for permission to introduce the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, by suspending the operation of Rule 33, as fifteen days had not elapsed, according to that Rule, since the date of publication of the Bill in the Gazette.

Seconded by Mr. Subramanya Aiyar.

Mr. Sesha Aiyar said that, being an important measure, it would be better to have the Bill taken up after the expiration of the statutory period.

The Council adopted Mr. Sesha Aiyar's suggestion and resolved to postpone the introduction of the Bill.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the Weights and Measures Regulation Amendment Bill be finally read and passed.

Seconded by Mr. Sesha Aiyar.

Carried.

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